

Attorney Docket No. 0198.00

CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A handheld aerosolization apparatus comprising:
 - a housing defining a chamber having a plurality of air inlets, the chamber being sized to receive a capsule which contains an aerosolizable pharmaceutical formulation;
 - a puncturing mechanism in the housing for creating one or more openings in the capsule;
 - a shield which covers at least ~~one~~ two but not all of the air inlets, wherein the shield comprises at least two covering portions, each covering portion covering at least one inlet, whereby the shield prevents blockage of the ~~at least one air inlet~~ two air inlets by a user grasping the apparatus; and
 - an end section associated with the housing, the end section sized and shaped to be received in a user's mouth or nose so that the user may inhale through the end section to aerosolize the pharmaceutical formulation and to inhale aerosolized pharmaceutical formulation that has exited the ~~receptacle~~ capsule.
2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the shield is a portion of the end section.
3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the end section is removably connected to the housing and wherein the end section may be removed from the housing to provide access to the chamber.
4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the shield is a portion of the end section.
5. Cancel.

Attorney Docket No. 0198.00

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1 wherein ~~there are two covering portions and wherein~~ the two covering portions are diametrically opposed.
7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1 wherein the at least two covering portions are separated by open portions.
8. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the open portions provide direct access to at least one inlet.
9. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the shield extends longitudinally along the apparatus.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the puncture member is adapted to puncture only one end of the capsule.
12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the chamber is elongated and wherein the capsule is received lengthwise within the elongated chamber.
13. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the inlet is shaped to create a swirling airflow within the chamber.
14. (Currently Amended) A handheld aerosolization apparatus comprising:
 - a housing defining a chamber having a plurality of air inlets, the chamber being sized to receive a capsule which contains an aerosolizable pharmaceutical formulation;
 - a puncturing mechanism in the housing for creating one or more openings in the capsule;
 - a shield which covers a portion of but not all of at least one of the air inlets; and

Attorney Docket No. 0198.00

an end section associated with the housing, the end section sized and shaped to be received in a user's mouth or nose so that the user may inhale through the end section to aerosolize the pharmaceutical formulation and to inhale aerosolized pharmaceutical formulation that has exited the receptacle capsule, wherein the energy for aerosolization is supplied solely by the user.

15. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the shield is a portion of the end section.

16. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the end section is removably connected to the housing and wherein the end section may be removed from the housing to provide access to the chamber.

17. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the shield is a portion of the end section.

18. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the inlet is shaped to create a swirling airflow within the chamber.

19-31. (Cancelled)

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